

myelocytic leukemia, colorectal cancer, gastritis, Hodgkin's disease, malignant melanoma, metastatic/multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-small cell lung cancer, ovarian cancer, digestive ulcer, systemic fungal infection, small cell lung cancer, cardiac valvular disease, mastopathy, polycystic ovary, infertility, chronic anovulation, induction of appropriate ovulation in women, acnes, amenorrhea (e.g. secondary amenorrhea), cystic diseases of ovary and breast (including polycystic ovary), gynecologic cancers, ovarian hyperandrogenemia and hypertrichosis, AIDS due to T cell production mediated via thymus blastogenesis, and male sterilization for treatment of male sexual crime offenders, as drugs for contraception and mitigation of symptoms in premenstrual syndrome (PMS), as agents for in vitro fertilization (IVF), etc., and in particular, as therapeutic/prophylactic agents for prostatic cancer, prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis, hysterosioma, metrofibroma, precocious puberty etc., and as contraceptives.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 7, 11 and 12 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Please substitute the following claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 for the claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 now pending in the above-identified application.

Please add new claims 13-22.

Inv C1
B7
1: (AMENDED) A method for producing a solid sustained-release microsphere preparation, which comprises freeze-drying a sustained-release microsphere preparation in a freeze-drying container of which the inner face is partially or wholly coated with an ice layer or water-repelling base material.

2. (AMENDED) A method for producing a solid sustained-release microsphere preparation, which comprises freeze-drying a sustained-release microsphere preparation in a freeze-drying container of which the inner face is partially or wholly coated with a water-repelling base material, and the coated inner face is further partially or wholly coated with an ice layer.

B8
8. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein sublimation is at 0°C or below.

9. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 1 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

10. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 2 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

Sub C2
B9
13. (NEW) A method for producing a sustained-release preparation comprising:

freezing water in a freeze-drying container having an inner face to form an ice layer which wholly or partially coats said inner face of said freeze-drying container;

adding a sustained-release preparation suspension to said ice layer;

freezing said sustained-release preparation suspension over said ice layer to form a sustained-release preparation layer;

sublimating water from said ice layer and said sustained-release preparation layer;

and then,
recovering a sustained-release preparation from said freeze-drying container.

14. (NEW) A method for producing a sustained-release preparation comprising:

freezing water in a freeze-drying container having an inner face, wherein said

inner face is wholly or partially coated with a water-repelling base

material, to form an ice layer which wholly or partially coats said water-repelling base material;

adding a sustained-release preparation suspension to said ice layer;

freezing said sustained-release preparation suspension over said ice layer to form

a sustained-release preparation layer;

sublimating water from said ice layer and said sustained-release preparation layer;

and then,

recovering a sustained-release preparation from said freeze-drying container.

15. (NEW) The method according to claim 13 wherein said preparation is a microsphere.

16. (NEW) The method according to claim 14 wherein said preparation is a microsphere.

17. (NEW) The method according to claim 15 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

18. (NEW) The method according to claim 16 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

19. (NEW) The method according to claim 14 wherein the water-repelling base material is ethylene tetrafluoride resin, ethylene trifluoride resin, ethylene difluoride resin, vinylidene

fluoride resin, propylene hexafluoride-ethylene tetrafluoride copolymer resin, modified fluorine resin, ethylene tetrafluoride-perfluoroalkoxyethylene copolymer resin, or ethylene tetrafluoride-ethylene copolymer resin.

20. (NEW) A method for producing a sustained-release preparation comprising:

adding a sustained-release microsphere preparation suspension to a freeze-drying container having an inner face, wherein said inner face is wholly or partially coated with a water-repelling base material;

freezing said sustained-release microsphere preparation suspension to form a sustained-release preparation layer;

sublimating water from said sustained-release preparation layer; and then,

recovering a sustained-release preparation from said freeze-drying container.

21. (NEW) The method of claim 20 wherein said microsphere is a microcapsule.

22. (NEW) The method of claim 20 wherein said water-repelling base material is ethylene tetrafluoride resin, ethylene trifluoride resin, ethylene difluoride resin, vinylidene fluoride resin, propylene hexafluoride-ethylene tetrafluoride copolymer resin, modified fluorine resin, ethylene tetrafluoride-perfluoroalkoxyethylene copolymer resin, or ethylene tetrafluoride-ethylene copolymer resin.
